Allevo at Vodafone

" *Operations can now be executed in one go without long setup times.* **"**

Annegret Spitmann,
Senior Controller Finance
Technology Capex Controlling,
Vodafone Germany

Project Management with Allevo at Vodafone Germany

Vodafone Germany, headquartered in Düsseldorf, is one of the leading communications companies in Germany, with 44 million customers and 12 billion euros in sales. 16,000 Vodafone employees work day in and day out to deliver outstanding Internet, mobile, landline and television service from a single source. Every year Vodafone has to coordinate 2,200 projects using WBS elements. Since November 2018, 160 users now use Allevo to manage projects in the SAP IM/PS module.

Efficient Project Budgeting & Workflows with the Agenda Function

"Unlike the majority of Allevo customers, Vodafone Germany doesn't use Allevo for fiscal year planning at the cost center level, including hierarchies," says Martin Brand, Senior Controller Finance, Technology Capex Controlling at Vodafone Germany. "Instead, we use it to budget specific projects in the current fiscal year." In other words, they use Allevo to manage specific projects and post budget adjustments directly in SAP. Due to the strict budget controls at Vodafone and the large number of connected systems, it was important that Allevo could map and control their mission-critical daily workflows. "We wanted to be able to see the status of each individual operation in a workflow at all times—for example, whether something has already been sent or not. (...) Allevo's agenda function has enabled us to achieve this to a high degree, because the optional read function allows a user to view historical budget details without the SAP object lock preventing other users from entering new budgeting on that same project."

A Full Business Day Saved in Each Process

Vodafone's previous budgeting process was very complex, involving many sub-steps and many people, "all of whom had to act in a defined sequence," says Martin Brand, Vodafone Germany. The process before Allevo was only partially automated, meaning many manual steps and transfers of CSV files were required. Because the process took so long, changes frequently had to be made to operations that were already active. These modified operations had to be adjusted and posted manually, which meant that figures were initially incorrect in the system.

"Of course, this took an enormous amount of time and coordination."
Thanks to Allevo and its direct integration in SAP, the processing time has been reduced many times over, as manual transfers are no longer required. Processes that used to take an entire day are now much more efficient: "Processing time has decreased from a full day to a few minutes," emphasizes Annegret Spitmann, Senior Controller Finance, Technology Capex Controlling at Vodafone Germany.

Allevo has also significantly sped up the project itself, as all information on purchase orders and transfer postings can be called up at any time, enabling them to be executed more quickly. "With Allevo, we can solve a problem right there in the meeting," says Martin Brand. By eliminating additional setup times for the operation, controlling can initiate the subsequent processes immediately and move projects forward more quickly.

Easy Integration & User-Friendly Interface in SAP

Because Allevo integrates directly into Vodafone's SAP system, the IT department was spared the need for a complex implementation. "Our whole SAP system is designed so that it can be centrally maintained and updated, rather than allowing each individual national subsidiary to act independently. (...) For that reason, it's enormously helpful that Allevo has its own namespace for clean mapping and technical integration in SAP. Allevo uses SAP standards, which makes our regular regression testing very simple," says Martin Brand.

Vodafone also wanted to ensure that its users could continue using their familiar environments wherever possible, a requirement that Allevo achieves with its customizable Excel interface. "We saw that this was an advantage of Allevo that other solutions didn't offer. (...) Specifically, we were able to adapt Allevo's user interface to our look and feel. It was so similar that we could basically tell our users: You just have to log in to a different system, and then everything will be more or less self-explanatory."

An additional benefit offered by Allevo is the ability to work with parameters in the Excel interface: "Another advantage of the product is its flexibility. Instead of having to use code, many functions can be implemented using parameters, which allows us to remain flexible at all times," says Annegret Spitmann.

> *" We can post live data within two minutes, since we are no longer dependent on the IT department. We can try out operations in our test system and then transfer them to the pro-duction system."*
>
> *Martin Brand,*
> *Senior Controller Finance*
> *Technology Capex Controlling,*
> *Vodafone Germany*

> **"** *Our goal was to make our existing solution better, faster and more effective, and we achieved it in the end thanks to Allevo.* **"**

Martin Brand,
Senior Controller Finance
Technology Capex Controlling,
Vodafone Germany

Benefits:

- ✔ Agenda function for efficient workflow planning
- ✔ 1 full day saved per operation thanks to the SAP-integrated project management
- ✔ Simple technical integration in the SAP system
- ✔ Customizable Excel user interface
- ✔ Parameter function for flexible data input